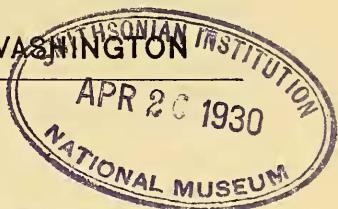


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF STAPHYLINIDAE
FROM SZE-CHUAN, CHINA.

BY EDWARD A. CHAPIN.

In rearranging the National collection of *Paederus* Fabr. a very interesting novelty was found among the numerous staphylinids collected by David C. Graham in China. As the species belongs to an apparently undescribed genus, closely related to *Paederus*, the opportunity is taken to indicate the more salient characteristics wherein it differs from the previously described genera and to assign to it a name.

Gnathopaederus, nov. gen.

Close to *Paederus* Fabr. Head oval, eyes prominent, antennae 11-segmented, second segment half as long as first, third equal in length to, but more slender than first, fourth to seventh mutually equal, each three-fourths as long as third, eighth to tenth slightly clavate, of these the tenth is the shortest, eleventh longer, acuminate. Labrum transverse, shallowly emarginate, minutely and irregularly denticulate. Mandibles asymmetrical, falcate. Left mandible with a small quadrate tooth at the middle of the internal margin, homologous with the internal double tooth of *Paederus*. Just anterior to the internal tooth is a curved dorsal tooth about two-thirds as long and similar in form to the apical half of the mandible proper. Right mandible similar in general shape to left but with the internal tooth reduced to a small rounded knob and with a much smaller dorsal tooth. Labial and maxillary palpi as in *Paederus*. Gular sutures confluent at the extreme base of the head. Prothorax globose, strongly swollen dorsally, greatest width at anterior third. Scutellum well developed. Elytra strongly constricted across the humeri, humeral angles effaced. Abdomen strongly margined. External genital characters as in *Paederus*. Legs long, fourth tarsal segment broad, bilobed.

Type species: *Gnathopaederus szechuanus*, n. sp.

Differentiated from *Paederus* Fabr. by the heavy supernumerary dorsal tooth of each mandible and by the strong basal constriction of the elytra. The mandibles are reminiscent of those of certain species of *Bledius* Mannerh.

The group *Paederi* of the subfamily *Paederinae* is composed of two other genera in addition to *Gnathopaederus*. The more important differences between these genera may be tabulated in the following manner.

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|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Gular sutures distinctly separated throughout their length; fourth tarsal segment broad, bilobed; mandibles without dorsal tooth.... | <i>Paederus</i> Fabr. |
| Gular sutures confluent or nearly so at base of head..... | 2 |
| 2. Fourth tarsal segment broad, bilobed, mandibles with prominent dorsal tooth, elytra constricted at base, elytral punctures coarse and sparse..... | <i>Gnathopaederus</i> Chpn. |
| Fourth tarsal segment narrow, emarginate at apex, mandibles without dorsal tooth, elytra not constricted at base, elytral punctures fine and dense..... | <i>Paederidus</i> Rey. |

It does not appear that the characters upon which the genera *Paederillus* Csy. and *Leucopaederus* Csy. are based are of generic rank.

***Gnathopaederus szechuanus*, new species.**

Elongate; head, metathorax and apical two segments of abdomen black, elytra metallic blue, mesothorax castaneous, prothorax, basal segments of abdomen and legs reddish yellow. Head as broad as long, hind angles broadly rounded; polished; punctures sparse and coarse, vestiture reduced to a few coarse hairs. Antennae pale castaneous, long. Maxillae, maxillary palpi and labial palpi yellowish, mandibles castaneous. Pronotum longer than broad (29 : 25), highly polished with very few rather fine punctures. Vestiture sparse, composed of stiff black setae. Anterior margin simple, posterior margin with fine bead. Elytra slightly shorter than pronotum, humeral angles almost entirely obliterated, width of the two elytra across humeri about one-half width across apices and but little more than one-third width of pronotum. Punctuation coarse and rather dense, a tendency to coalesce is seen in the punctures of the disc.

Abdomen fusiform, greatest width at the fifth (first black) segment, first four segments very strongly margined, basal transverse impressions moderately broad and shallow, punctuation fine and sparse on tergites, much more dense on sternites especially along the median line. Sixth sternite (male) with a deep U-shaped notch, finely margined and with a minute pit at the bottom of the notch.

Length: 9.5 mm.

Locality: west of Ya-chow, Sze-chuan Province, June 16-20, 1923, David C. Graham, collector.

Type: a male, paratype a partially dissected male, U. S. N. M. No. 40486.

It is possible that *Paederus gottschei* Kolbe should also be referred to *Gnathopaederus*, but the mandibles are not mentioned in the original description and there are no specimens available for study. However, mention is made of the fact that the pronotum is narrowed behind, that the elytra are very much narrowed basally and that the greatest width of the

abdomen is near the middle. In these points the species is in accord with *G. szechuanus*. The specific characters given indicate that the species themselves are amply distinct. The relative lengths of the antennal segments, the color of the antennae and legs are quite different in the two. The color of the prothorax of *P. gottchei* is given as red and later in the following paragraph as black. It is probably red, to judge from the published figure.